

09/2/8763

ABSTRACT

An image viewing device is described which is capable of producing images comprising at least a 180° field of view, also referred to as fisheye images. The device employs an extremely small aperture in conjunction with an optical block comprised of a refractive material. The light rays from an image pass through the aperture whereupon they are compressed in angle by the optical block to produce the fisheye image. An optional image intensifier may be employed to enhance the image produced by the optical block. Additionally, optional filters, viewers, and recording devices may be employed to enhance the image produced as well as to provide a permanent record of any images produced. The image viewing device is capable of producing high resolution color, black and white, and monochromatic fisheye images under various weather and lighting conditions.